

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 29, 2007. Claims 1 to 13 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0026531 (Onodera). Claims 2 to 5 and 8 to 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Onodera. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing method which is used to confirm a layout when an image is formed onto a first recording medium on the basis of an application, the first recording medium being of a disk shape and set in a dedicated tray of a printer. The method includes an image forming step of forming the image based on the application; and a display control step of controlling a process for displaying the image so that a portion corresponding to an inside of the first recording medium of the image formed in the image forming step and a portion corresponding to an area which would overflow the first recording medium can be discriminated.

In the current Office Action, it appears that the Examiner is interpreting the claim term "an outside of said recording medium" as an being an outer section of a recording medium, such as, referring to Fig. 7b of Onodera, outer section 2b of recording medium DSC. In Onodera, this area is used for printing strings of characters onto the recording medium. However, the present invention is actually directed to printing an image on a disc shaped medium wherein the image is created from a document, as shown in Fig. 3, that is not of the same shape as the disc shaped medium. Therefore, it is necessary to determine an area of the

document that falls outside the printable area of the disc shaped medium. As referred to in the specification of the present application, this is an area which would overflow the disc shaped recording medium. Therefore, in order to clarify the meaning of the claims, the term “outside” of an image to refer to a portion of an image that falls outside the area of a recording medium if the image were to be printed directly onto the recording medium, has been replaced with the term an “area which would overflow” the recording medium.

In contrast, Onodera is simply directed to printing text in different sections of a recording medium. Applicant submits that Onodera fails to disclose or suggest displaying the image so that a portion corresponding to an inside of the first recording medium of the image formed in said image forming step and a portion corresponding to an area which would overflow the first recording medium can be discriminated, as featured in Claim 1.

In light of the deficiencies of Onodera as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 7 and 13 are directed to an apparatus and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7 and 13 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.